

1-12. (CANCELED)

13. (NEW) A switching device (2) for a multi-step vehicle transmission (4) having one main transmission part (6) and at least one auxiliary-section transmission part (10) and comprising switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) for actuating switching elements (42, 50, 52, 54) in the main transmission part (6) and switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) for actuating switching elements (44, 46) in the auxiliary-section transmission part (10) and in which the switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) for actuating the switching elements (42, 50, 52, 54) in the main transmission part (6) also actuate the switching elements (44, 46) in the auxiliary-section transmission part (10), the switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) have a clearance (40) in which can be moved one element (38) of the switching means that actuates the switching elements (42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 54) during a selection process for choosing a desired switching element (42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 54) in direction to a switching operation.

14. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 13, wherein the switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) for actuating the switching elements (42, 50, 52, 54) in the main transmission part (6) comprise one of a pneumatic, hydraulic or electric actuator (12) for carrying out a switching command.

15. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 13, wherein the switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) for actuating the switching elements (42, 50, 52, 54) in the main transmission part (6) comprise one of a pneumatic, hydraulic or electric actuator (18) for carrying out a selection command.

16. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 14, wherein the actuator (12, 18) is controlled by automation based on commands processed in a control device (37) according to preset rules.

17. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 14, wherein the actuator (12) for carrying out the switching command can be controlled with at least parts of a selection command for carrying out a selection procedure in direction of the switching operation.

18. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 13, wherein on the clearance (40), a first switching element (44) of the auxiliary-section transmission part (10) abuts on one side and a second switching element (42) of the main transmission part (6) abuts on another side.

19. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 14, wherein the switching elements (44, 46) of the auxiliary-section transmission part (10) are synchronized switching elements.

20. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 14, wherein the switching elements (44, 46) of the auxiliary-section transmission part (10) comprise one dog clutch engagement without synchronization elements.

21. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 20, wherein in the presence of a dog clutch engagement without synchronization elements, the switching elements (42) of the main transmission part (6) located next to the clearance (40) are switching elements for a highest and a lowest ratio step of the main transmission part (6).

22. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 14, wherein the switching means (12, 14, 18, 38) for actuating the switching elements (42, 50, 52, 54) in the main transmission part (6) comprise one single selector shaft (14).

23. (NEW) The switching device (2) according to claim 14, wherein a selector finger (38) is directly connected with the switching means (12, 18) for carrying out a switching motion and a selection motion.